

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 13-17 have been added.

The Office Action dated October 21, 2004, has been received and carefully reviewed. As a result of that Office Action, claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuki in view of Parvulescu. These rejections were discussed with the examiner during a personal interview on January 10, 2005, and, as an initial matter, Applicant's representative would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview. Pursuant to MPEP 713.04, a brief summary of the interview is provided below.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

A personal interview was held on January 10, 2005. The examiner, Linh Son and Applicant's representative, Scott Wakeman were present. Claims 1, 13 and 17 were discussed, as were the Kuki and Parvulescu references of record. No exhibits were shown. The operation of an embodiment of the invention was discussed and it was agreed that the two cited references did appear to render the invention required by claim 13 obvious. Claims 1 and 17 were discussed to a lesser extent, but the examiner agreed that, subject to further search and consideration, these claims too appeared to be allowable over the art of record.

SUBSTANTIVE REJECTIONS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuki in view of Parvulescu. Claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, a first wireless search device for locating a second wireless search device. The first wireless search device includes notification voice storage means for storing notification voice data, communication means for automatic transmission and reception of an identification code and notification voice data, and identification code identifying means for identifying whether an identification code received from the other of the first and second search device matches a code stored in an identification code storage means. The device further includes notification means for notifying that a matching identification code has been received by producing the notification voice defined by the notification voice data stored in the notification voice storage means. Specifically, the notification voice data stored in the notification voice data storage means of one of the first and second search devices are automatically transmitted to the other of the first and second search devices after an identification code match is detected so that the same notification voice is produced by the first search device and the second search device.

As discussed during the interview, neither of the cited references discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, these limitations, in particular, a device wherein the same notification

voice is produced by the first and second search devices. For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 are submitted to be allowable over the art of record.

New claims 13-17 are also submitted to patentably distinguish over these references. Claim 13 requires, *inter alia*, a method of notifying the user of a first search device that the user of a previously identified second search device is within a given proximity of the first search device. The method involves causing the first search device to automatically transmit an identification code and listen for a predetermined identification code. If the predetermined identification code is received, the first search device sends notification voice data to the second search device so that a notification voice defined by the notification voice data can be sounded at the first and second devices. As discussed during the interview, at least the limitation of sounding a notification voice defined by notification voice data at the first and second search devices is not shown or suggested by the art of record. Claims 13 and its dependent claims 14-16 are submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

Independent claim 17 is also submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Claim 17 requires, *inter alia*, a method of notifying the user of a first search device and the user of a second search that the search devices are within a given proximity of each other that involves storing a predetermined identification

code in each of the first and second search devices, setting the first and second search devices to automatically transmit and listen for the predetermined identification code and selecting a notification voice from among a plurality of notification voices stored in one of the first and second search devices. When one of the first and second search devices receives the predetermined identification code, data representing the selected notification voice is transmitted from one of the first and second search devices to the other of the first and second search devices. Both devices then produce the selected notification voice. At least the step of producing a selected notification voice at the first and second search devices is not shown or suggested by the art of record, and claim 17 is submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

Conclusion

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated October 12, 2004, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1-17 are now in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 and examination and allowance of claims 13-17 is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the

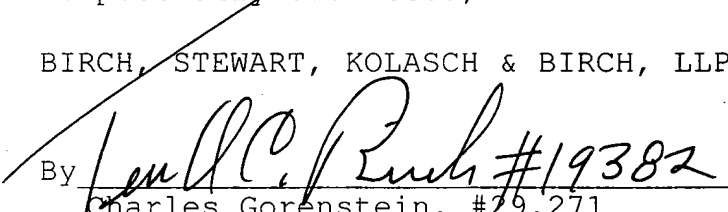
telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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